

Britain on brink of second dock strike

LONDON (R) — Britain was on the brink of its second national dock strike in a month Wednesday after the state steel industry decided to unload a consignment of foreign coal without using registered dockers. The British Steel Corporation (BSC) said it would unload a shipload of 90,000 tonnes of imported coal for its Ravenscraig, Scotland, steelworks, badly hit by Britain's coal strike. The Scottish dockers' leader said his men would strike if the company used steel union workers to unload the coal. He expected English dockers would follow suit. BSC says it urgently needs coal from the cargo ship Ostia, which is being boycotted by dockers in support of the miners' strike over pit closures. BSC Deputy Chairman Bob Scholey said: "British steel regrets the way it has been dragged into the miners' dispute by the transport unions, at a time when it is fighting for its own survival."

ing congratulates Romanian leader

MBIAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of congratulations Wednesday to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu congratulating the Romanian leader in the King's own name and on behalf of the people of Jordan. The cable expressed the King's confidence that relations of friendship between Jordan and Romania will be strengthened and wished President Ceausescu success in the leadership of the Romanian people towards further progress and prosperity.

Israelis wound 1 in S. Lebanon

JORDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli troops opened fire on a civilian car near Nabatieh in South Lebanon, Tuesday and wounded its four occupants, Lebanese police said. The driver apparently failed to stop at a checkpoint as he was approaching Nabatieh, 57 kilometres south of Beirut, they said. Three of the passengers were Lebanese and one was Egyptian.

Polisario optimistic over treaty

ARIS (R) — The Polisario Front said it hopes one of the first results of the Libyan-Moroccan union treaty will be the evacuation of Moroccan forces from the Western Sahara, according to a communiqué issued Wednesday. The communiqué reported by the Algerian news agency APS monitored a Paris was issued after a meeting Tuesday of the Algerian-backed Polisario's executive committee at Tifariti in the Western Sahara.

U.K. police seal off mining village

LONDON (R) — Police sealed off an English mining village and arrested 16 people Wednesday as violence flared again in the 20-week-old strike in the state-run coal industry. Police said about 1,000 pickets caused "chaos" in the northern English village of Arncliffe, in Yorkshire. Entrances to the village were sealed off because police said they could not guarantee the safety of anyone travelling through after mobs burned stones and other missiles at passing vehicles. At the nearby Wathmain Main colliery, management safety teams were trapped inside by pickets. Eight people were arrested.

Amnesty condemns Sudan amputations

JENEVA (R) — Sudan has imposed 58 sentences of amputation since introducing a penal code based on Islamic law last September, the human rights organisation Amnesty International said Wednesday. An Amnesty spokesman urged the United Nations Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appeal to Sudan to stop inflicting amputations and remove the penalty from its legislation. It said 12 of the sentences involved cross-limb amputation — of the right hand and left foot — a mandatory penalty for armed robbery or repeated theft. The amputations were inflicted in public, it added.

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200 injured in militia clashes Death toll rises to 60 in Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (Agencies) — Fresh battles erupted Wednesday between rival militias in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli, where about 60 people have been killed and 200 wounded since Monday night, according to police and other sources quoted by various news agencies.

Shells began crashing across the city at 11 a.m. (0800 GMT) as militiamen of the Sunni Muslim fundamentalist "Islamic Unification Movement" (Tawheed) clashed with the mostly Alawite Arab Democratic Party (ADP) militia, they added. Health authorities in the city appealed for blood donations to help hospitals trying to cope with the flow of casualties. Newspaper and radio reports said the last three days of fighting were the heaviest in Tripoli in the past eight months of sporadic but bloody clashes between the two militias.

Many people fled the city, Lebanon's second largest, when the latest violence began on Monday night and raged for nearly 22 hours before a shaky truce took hold Tuesday afternoon. There was no word on casualties in Wednesday's clashes, but Beirut newspapers published tolls that ranged from 34 dead and 120 wounded to more than 90 dead and 300 wounded since Monday.

A police statement said the death toll was expected to climb when a survey of bombed out buildings by civil defence and Red Cross teams was completed. The Beirut newspaper An Nahar said the toll had already surpassed 90 dead and 300 wounded. The on-again-off again war between the two groups for local dominance of Lebanon's second largest city appeared to be taking a sectarian character. Beirut newspapers said two Sunni Muslim groups, the mosques committee and the Islamic committee, have joined forces with Tawheed in the fighting against the ADP "Arabian Knights".

The knights commander, Mobeen 'Eid, was quoted in a recent magazine interview as demanding a seat in the Lebanese parliament for the Alawites and said "we too are Muslims". It was not clear what had sparked off the fighting, the latest round in a long battle for supremacy between Tawheed, Tripoli's dominant anti-Syrian militia, and the pro-Syrian ADP.

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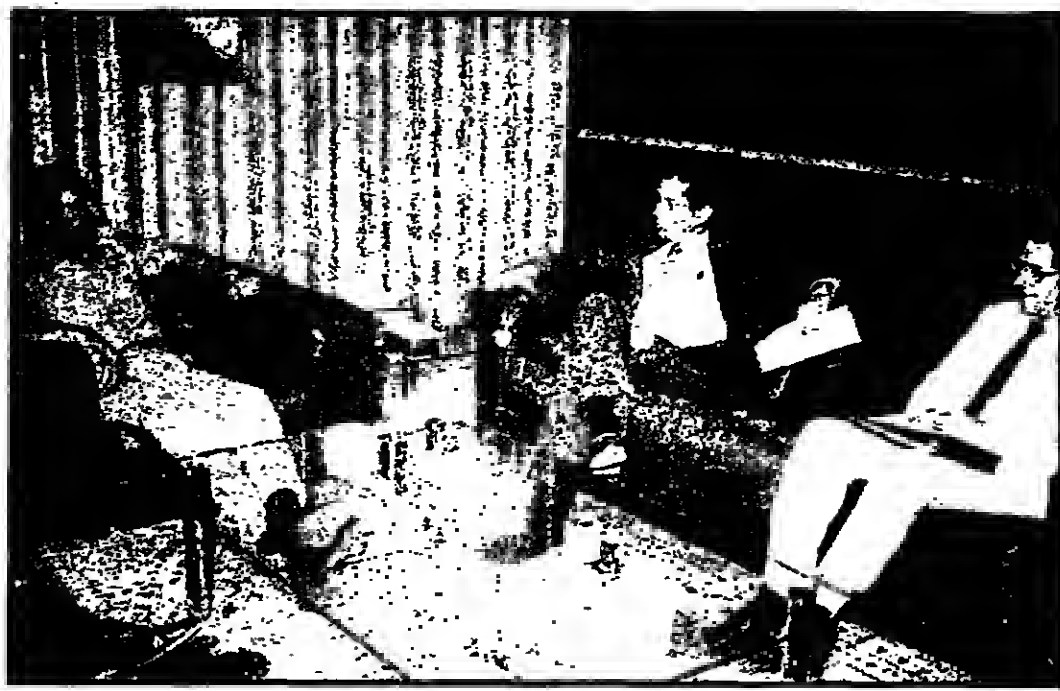
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Ali Al Giahour
Britain and holds the British authorities fully responsible for that," it added.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said in London Monday that assassins had lured Mr. Giahour to an apartment. His decomposing body was found Monday after neighbours reported a strong smell, the spokesman said. Mr. Giahour had been free on bail on charges of conspiring to set off five bombs that injured 26 people in London in March. Police had been looking for him since Friday night, when he failed to report to London's Paddington



Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Wednesday confers with a visiting U.S. delegation headed by Congressman Stephen Solarz (centre)

King receives Rep. Solarz

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Palace Wednesday U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz who arrived here for a brief visit to discuss with Jordanian leaders the latest developments in the Middle East. Rep. Solarz, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, also met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported both meetings, said Rep. Solarz discussed with Gen. Sharif Zaid

"issues of mutual concern." No details on any of the two meetings were revealed.

A U.S. embassy official in Amman told the Jordan Times that Mr. Solarz's visit to the region was aimed "to get up-to-date information on how people are thinking in the Middle East." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Solarz, heading a three-man official delegation, is currently on the fourth leg of a Middle East tour which took him to Egypt, Kuwait and Iraq where he held meetings with leaders of the three Arab countries. He made a 24-hour stop in Jordan last Thursday while on his way to Egypt.

A visit to the congressman planned to Syria after Jordan has been put off, members of his delegation had told the Jordan Times. They said he is scheduled to visit Israel after Jordan.

U.S. Republican Senator Arlen Specter made a one-day visit to Jordan earlier this month and was received by King Hussein. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masi and other high-ranking Jordanian officials.

During his visit, Sen. Specter discussed Jordan's relations with the U.S. and the latest developments in the region. He was on a tour which took him to several other Middle East countries.

Lebanon to complain at U.N. against Israeli occupation

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Lebanese government Wednesday decided to lodge an official complaint with the U.N. Security Council about Israeli actions in occupied South Lebanon.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami said his "national unity" cabinet had agreed to ask the Foreign Ministry to draw up a complaint focusing on violations by Israel of international conventions on the rights of citizens in occupied territories.

Mr. Karami told reporters after a cabinet meeting that one aim of the Hague, London and Geneva conventions had been to prevent a repetition of Nazi actions against the Jews.

"It is ironic that we (Lebanese) today are suffering torture and the ugliest of occupations at the hands of those whom these agreements were supposed to protect," Mr. Karami said.

Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader and minister Walid Junblatt missed the cabinet session because relatives of kidnap victims used blazing tyres to block the road he was to have taken.

The cabinet would also consider political reforms outlined in a government platform agreed in May, Mr. Karami added. Backed by Shi'ite leader and fellow-cabinet minister Nabih Berri, Mr. Junblatt has insisted that progress on reforms to give Muslims more political power

must accompany any deployment of troops in areas he controls. Impatient at the government's failure to take action, the mainly Druze PSP militia said the protest had been timed deliberately to prevent Mr. Junblatt from attending the meeting.

His absence meant the cabinet was unable to discuss a security plan for mountains southeast of Beirut, where PSP fighters have clashed with army units and mostly Christian militiamen.

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Egyptians tighten security in Suez

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian authorities, now more convinced than ever that Libya is responsible for mining the Suez Canal, have tightened security measures in the Suez Canal and the Gulf and are intensifying their searches of ships, canal sources quoted by the Associated Press said Wednesday.

"We are concentrating on ships from Libya, which is the principal suspect," one canal authority source said. "And we are also concentrating on roll-on roll-off ships which are best geared for mine-laying."

Meanwhile, a Soviet destroyer and submarine chaser were due at Port Said Wednesday night to transit the Suez Canal and join two Soviet minesweepers operating in the southern tip of the Red Sea. Reuters quoted canal sources as saying.

The ships are the submarine chaser Leningrad, Number 103 and a destroyer identified only as Number 710. The Leningrad carries one helicopter. Both vessels will head for the Bah Al Mandeb strait at the mouth of the Red Sea, the sources said.

Two Soviet minesweepers are currently operating in South Yemeni waters to sweep the area around the strait.

On Tuesday, a high-ranking Egyptian military source cited by the state-run news agency said the Soviet Union was undertaking mine clearance operations "in the southern part of the Red Sea." He gave no details, but it was believed the Soviets were working off the coast of South Yemen in an area where a number of explosions have occurred.

At least 18 ships have been damaged by mines in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez since July 9. None, however, have been sunk or holed, leading naval experts to conclude that the mines are laid at the bottom of the sea rather than floating or buoyed just under the

Weizman commits himself to Labour

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister-designate Shimon Peres, striving to form a coalition government, has signed a long-term cooperation pact with former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, Israel radio reported Wednesday.

The radio said Mr. Weizman committed his three-seat centrist Yahad (together) party to supporting a Peres government even if efforts to form a "national unity administration" with the ruling Likud bloc ended in failure.

Political commentators said the pact significantly improved Mr. Peres' chances of forming a coalition, and appeared to end finally Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's prospects of heading a new government.

Under the agreement the two parties would act as a single parliamentary bloc and Mr. Weizman would have the option of merging with Labour and running together in the next general election.

In last month's election, Labour won 44 seats in the 120-member parliament, three more than Likud. Wednesday's development raised Labour's effective strength to 47 and Labour leaders said they expected other small parties to

join their bloc soon. The one-man centrist faction of former Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz also joined the agreement.

The agreement ensured that Mr. Shamir cannot build a narrow coalition commanding a 61-seat majority in the Knesset, or parliament.

Family feud near Salt claims 2 lives

By A Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The village of Omm Jozeh, several kilometres north of Salt, was sealed off and police were conducting house-to-house search for firearms on Wednesday following a family feud that claimed the lives of two citizens, reports reaching here said.

The feud erupted on Tuesday after a verbal clash between two members of the village's municipal council, who are also blood relatives, over the purchase of a piece of land that was intended for public use. The clash led to one of the council members, Zakaria Al Ghoul Abu Rumman, to shoot at his relative, Bahjat Al Hajj Abdullah Abu Rumman, instantly killing him.

The killing took place in downtown Salt on Wednesday morning and Zakaria gave himself up to the police, having went first to the house of Salt Deputy, Zuhair Thoghan Al Hussein seeking immediate protection, according to eyewitnesses.

Close relatives of the victim, his father and brothers and first cousins, immediately travelled to their village in the mountains overlooking Salt and went on the rampage against houses owned by the alleged murderer, his father and first cousins and set them on fire.

The occupants of the houses were evacuated first, eyewitnesses said, but Zakaria's father who struck with a truncheon (ganwah). He later died in hospital, relatives said, and at least one nephew of his remained in hospital to receive treatment for wounds he sustained in the rampage.

Police arrived at the scene soon afterwards, but enforcements had to be called in to contain the violence. The village was cordoned off and the security forces were conducting house-to-house search for firearms to prevent further violence, Abu Rumman family members said.

The village, inhabited by a few thousand people, almost all of them from the Abu Rumman family (better known as Rammanneh), has a history of blood feuds amongst its members. One of them told the Jordan Times that there was such a feud dating back many years between the same cousins who clashed this week.

The verbal clash that ignited Wednesday's killing was over the issue of whether to buy a certain piece of land, presumably owned by one of the cousins, to build a village clinic on it. The entire village council is made up of the same family.

Concerted efforts were under way Wednesday to reconcile the family factions, with the governor of Balqa, Mr. Mohammad Al Khatib, and the chief of the area's police heading attempts to calm the situation. The police are also conducting investigations into the two killings.

Armed man arrested in White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man armed with a handgun was arrested Wednesday inside the White House grounds which he had entered along with tourists planning to visit the residence, the secret service said. The suspect, identified as Victor Rupert Yngst, 41, was taken into custody after officers found the .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol in a bag. Sgt. Doub Adkins of the secret service said. "He was arrested as he entered the tour line... he was going in on a tour," Sgt. Adkins said. "He was inside the complex." Sgt. Adkins said the gun was loaded. President Ronald Reagan, who was in the White House Wednesday prior to his departure to Dallas for the Republican national convention, was not in danger, and agents said Yngst made no threats on the president or any other official.

Hassan tours JVA projects, APC plant

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday made a tour of development projects in Wadi Araba, south of the Dead Sea, and the Arab Potash Company (APC) as well as schemes being implemented by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

Prince Hassan first stopped at the Rahmeh pilot project where he inspected greenhouses and irrigated lands and was briefed by JVA President Munther Haddadin on the plans being carried out in the region.

These projects, Dr. Haddadin said, depend on underground water which JVA has been exploiting since 1980, especially at

Qaa Sa'din, Wadi Musa and Um Mula. JVA also drills artesian wells to increase the area of irrigated lands to help farmers produce more crops. Dr. Haddadin said. Prince Hassan toured the projects and talked to officials and engineers working there.

At a visit to the APC near the southern tip of the Dead Sea Prince Hassan was briefed by APC Director Ali Nsour and officials on the APC's programmes for marketing its product and programmes for the future.

Prince Hassan was accompanied on the tour by Karak Governor Ahmad Al Qur'an and other officials.

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'Democratic alliance' to pursue dialogue with PLO dissidents

By Lamiis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The "democratic alliance," which groups four radical Palestinian factions, is determined to continue its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) dissidents despite the latter's decision to boycott the Palestine National Council (PNC), which is scheduled to be convened in Algiers next month, a spokesman for the alliance said on Wednesday.

The spokesman, an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from Damascus that the democratic alliance which includes his group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party and the Palestine Liberation Front, has not given up hope in talking the opposition national alliance into "a global Palestinian dialogue".

A series of talks between the democratic alliance and the national alliance, which groups the PFLP-General Command, the Fateh rebels and the Popular Struggle Front reached a deadlock last month because of the national alliance's refusal to open a dialogue with the Fateh Central Committee.

The failure of the talks to convince the national alliance to join

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HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

AND

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU

VA conducts multi-million dollar project to harness Mujib waters for irrigation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The end of the civil works section of a project to harness the waters of the Jordan River for irrigation is being completed. The project, which will cost \$53.84 million and be carried out in Ghor Al Safi, near Al Thiraa, Fifta and Khazirah, all near the Dead Sea.

Dr. Haddadin, speaking in a recent interview, said that the project had not been feasible in the past because it required advanced technology and necessary funds, and also the topographic nature of the land in the region discouraged all planners.

Each part of the two-stage project entails several small schemes, but the final target will be reclaiming and irrigating more than 100,000 dunums of land using pipe networks instead of open canals and substituting the open irrigation method with drip irrigation, Dr. Haddadin said. In this way, he added, water can be saved and used more economically to irrigate vast areas of land.

According to Dr. Haddadin, the first stage of the project entails building civil works, housing units and other infrastructure works such as workshops for maintaining machinery and equipment, the installation of drip irrigation equipment and the building of a marketing centre. There will be another centre for research and agricultural guidance in addition to administrative buildings, he said.

An Italian firm was awarded a tender for the civil works and completed the task at Ghor Al Safi in 1982, while the civil works for Ghor Thiraa, Haditha, Mazra'a Fifta, and Khazirah were awarded in 1982 and are due to be completed by February 1985, Dr. Haddadin said.

In order to pave the way for the second stage of the project Dr. Haddadin said that the JVA has contracted Japanese specialists to conduct a feasibility study on developing the underground water found in the southern Jordan Valley. The studies have been completed and the scheme will be carried out, he said.

This second stage of the Mujib project, he said, will cost \$186.2 million and entails developing water resources, building a 48-metre high diversion dam at a point where the Mujib enters Al Hidan valley and another dam called Tannour in the Hassa Valley to store up to 10 million cubic metres of water.

Queen Noor celebrates birthday today

Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein today celebrates her 33rd birthday. During her six years as Queen of Jordan, Queen Noor has directed her efforts to long-term concerns with impact on the quality of life in Jordan.

Queen Noor is the daughter of a prominent Arab American family. She was born Lisa Najeh Halaby on August 23, 1951, in Washington, D.C. She attended schools in California, Washington, and New York before receiving her high school diploma from Concord Academy in Massachusetts.

In 1974, Queen Noor graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Architecture and Urban Planning. After graduation, she participated in several international urban planning and design projects in the United States, Australia, Iran, Jordan, and other countries of the Middle East. In 1976, she began work on the preparation of a master plan for the Arab Air University to be established in Amman. Subsequently, she joined Alia, The Royal Jordanian Airline, in 1977 as Director of Planning and Design Projects.

His Majesty King Hussein and Queen Noor were married in Amman on June 15, 1978. They have two sons, His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah, born on March 24, 1980, and His Royal Highness Prince Hashim, born on June 10, 1981, and one daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Iman, born on April 24, 1983.

Projects and activities under her guidance and sponsorship include those in the areas of education, art, cultural awareness, environmental protection, social welfare, architecture, child care, women's development, and international understanding.

As Chairman of the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, Her Majesty is an active participant in that organization's assessment of Jordan's future man-power needs and its provision of educational opportunities for talented and dedicated Jordanian students. The Endowment conducts educational and sociocultural research and provides scholarships, loans, and work-study grants to students whose academic specializations will enable them to significantly contribute to their country's development.

Patron of the arts.

The Queen is a leading patron

of the arts in Jordan, having helped to establish The Royal Cultural Center in addition to the Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts in Amman which houses a growing collection of Jordanian, Arab, Islamic, and modern works of art. She has actively supported the Jordan Craft Center to help young people learn and perpetuate the crafts of older artisans.

The annual Jerash Festival, held every August in the Graeco-Roman city of Jerash just north of Amman, is a culmination of Jordanian and Arab artistic efforts in many areas. The Festival was conceived by the Queen to encourage the people of Jordan to express themselves at an individual and national level through their art, traditions, and talents. She continues to guide it as Chairman of the Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival.

Queen Noor is also concerned with the preservation of historic structures in Jordan and the compatibility of newer structures with Arab and Islamic architectural traditions. As Chairman of the Royal Commission for the Conservation of Architectural Heritage, Her Majesty is actively involved in the search for quality in contemporary urban development.

The Queen serves as Chairman of the Higher National Committee for the Protection of the Environment, whose activities include the drafting of new legislation which will better protect the environment, the reforestation of Jordan's lands to reduce erosion, and the replenishment of the country's wildlife. She has also initiated, in rural Jordan, the Queen Noor Project for the Greening and Development of Villages, a project launched to develop integrated programmes for the improvement of village life and environment through local communities.

Queen Noor is involved in many social welfare programmes and activities. She is the Honorary President of the Welfare Society for the Care of the Deaf and supports many organisations which care for the handicapped. To further the care of Jordan's children, the Queen initiated and guided the establishment of an



S.O.S. Village in Amman in cooperation with the Austrian-based S.O.S. Kinderdorf International. This model village is designed to provide an atmosphere for orphaned and abandoned children resembling as nearly as possible that of a normal family life. Her Majesty has assumed Honorary Presidency of the S.O.S. Children's Village Association in Jordan, and is the driving force behind a national campaign to develop comprehensive assessment facilities and improve medical care for children throughout the Kingdom.

Her Majesty has also initiated and continues to sponsor the Arab Children's Congress, an annual cultural programme for children from all over the Arab World, which offers them the opportunity to experience their common Arab heritage and the cultural life and heritage of Jordan.

Role of women

As Honorary Chairman of the Jordanian Professional and Business Women's Club and of the Working Women's Club, The Queen promotes an active and productive role for Jordanian women in the socio-economic development of the country, while working to preserve the strong cohesion of the family unit within the context of the country's traditional social fabric.

As Honorary Chairman of the

Irbid governor requested to improve public services

IRBID (J.T.) — Heads of municipal and village councils in Irbid Governorate Wednesday submitted requests to the government for improving education, postal and telephone communications, health and water services in their region.

The requests were submitted to Irbid Governor Turki Al Hindawi who made an inspection tour of 14 towns and villages in the region accompanied by directors of health, education, agriculture and the director of the Irbid District Electricity Company.

Mr. Hindawi said that the tour aimed at bolstering relationships between citizens and the state and for directors of various departments to familiarise themselves with the needs of the region. He called on heads of various departments to consider the requests submitted to them during the tour in their programmes for developing the Irbid region.

Director of communications in Ramtha said that the Telecommunications Corporation has begun implementing a telephone network to link all eastern villages to a central exchange at Buweidah village. He also said that several post offices will be opened in the coming year which will operate 24 hours a day.

The health department director in Ramtha called on the public to offer buildings to serve as health centres and to urge their daughters to join the nursing profession and work in their region.

Iraqi troupe's political show evokes passionate response from audience

By Laima K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ERASH — Iraq's first folklore troupe, with its original sketches and vigorous dances, drew a warm and enthusiastic response at the current Jerash Festival.

The National Troupe of Iraq, established in 1971 with the help of Soviet artists, has represented a country at a number of national and international festivals giving performances in many countries including Socialist countries, the U.S., Italy and India. A winner of the prestigious Italian "Golden Temple" award for the performing arts, the group includes around 120 dancers, musicians and singers.

The two performances which 26 of the group members presented at Jerash's South Theatre were characterised by a pan-Arab touch, for the show contained songs and dances from different Arab countries compiled in fabulous sketches.

Mr. Noor Al Deen Jassem, the leader of the troupe, told the Jordan Times that it is the philosophy of the group to project a national Arab image rather than a strictly Iraqi one. Yet, there is no doubt that the troupe maintains a distinct Iraqi character and successfully transforms different ideas and aspects of Iraqi life, traditions and folklore into meaningful and beautiful tableaux.

"We usually draw our themes and dances from the life and folklore of our people," Mr. Jassem

said, "our job is turn them into sophisticated theatrical sketches by employing good choreography and exploiting modern theatrical techniques, but without sacrificing their original character or meaning," he added.

Themes of the singing and dancing presented by the Iraqi troupe ranged from comical scenes of flirtation between young lovers to a moving portrayal of the impact of the four-year-old Iraq-Iran war.

In the song

In one of the sketches, entitled "The Iraqi Soq (market)," a young female vendor of home-made yoghurt at a souk gets so immersed in a romantic flirtation with a young man that she forgets all about the yoghurt. The vendor's romantic interlude is spoiled when her mother arrives at the scene to find that passersby had seized the opportunity to drink all of the yoghurt.

Enraged at her daughter's irresponsibility, the mother rebukes the young vendor and chases away her lover. In the last scene, the two young lovers escape from the mother and manage to meet again, unperturbed by the loss of the yoghurt.

The "Dance of the Plate" is said to be a tribute to one of the oldest traditional crafts in Iraq: plates made from palm leaves. The exotic dancing performed by eight of the girls in this sketch is one of the most beautiful numbers in the two-hour show and was received by a warm applause from the audience.

ence. The colourful and original costumes of the dancers which add glamour to the show are designed by Ms. Intithal Al Tal who has a Masters degree in theatre costume design.

Wedding scene

Mr. Jassem explained the emotional symbols that he said were inextricably linked with the song. "The sketch commences with a traditional wedding scene because in the Arab culture a wedding is the utmost symbol of happiness. The smile is used to describe the condition of the people in Iraq before the war," Mr. Jassem said.

The wedding is interrupted when a man dressed in army fatigues enters to tell the people that their country is in danger. The men at the wedding party leave to make a dramatic reappearance carrying wooden imitations of Soviet-made Kalashnikov machine guns. The women at the wedding party, headed by the bride, remove their jewellery and give it to the fighters.

"The whole scene meant to show that all Iraqis have given what they could to defend their country," Mr. Jassem said, noting that most Iraqi women had contributed their gold and jewellery to the government in an effort to strengthen the capabilities of Iraq.

The audience reacted with a standing applause when two fighters entered the stage carrying the Iraqi and Jordanian flags.

Arab council to discuss economy, investment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Social and Economic Council opens a three day meeting in Amman on Monday to discuss economic subjects of concern to the Arab nation.

The meeting, to be held at ministerial and Arab economic experts level, will look into means of developing the Arab countries' economies in general and will discuss the establishment of a pan-Arab institution to organise offshore investments.

The meeting will review a memo submitted by the Arab League General Secretariat dealing with regulations governing certain Arab League agencies and Arab chambers of commerce.

Symposium to review fertility, family planning

AMMAN (Petra) — Fertility, infant mortality, mother and child care services, vaccination for children and family planning will be among the major topics to be discussed at a regional symposium opening here on Aug. 28th.

The symposium is organised by the Statistics Department in cooperation with the Economic Committee for Western Asia (ECWA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Several experts from these agencies and Arab countries in addition to representatives from regional and national institutions will also discuss the outcome of a general census held in Jordan at the end of 1979 and the 1983 survey on family planning.

Alliance to pursue talks

(Continued from page 1)

"a global Palestinian dialogue" did not stop the Fatah movement and the democratic alliance from issuing a statement last week reiterating an earlier agreement to hold the PNC in mid-September.

Following the announcement the leaders of the national alliance held a press conference in which they announced the alliance would boycott the council and threatened those who attended PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril was quoted as saying that PFLP General Secretary George Habash had promised not to attend the PNC if the national alliance did not.

In response to Mr. Jibril's statement the PFLP Wednesday issued a statement in Damascus in which it condemned "the threatening tone which prevailed at the national alliance press conference" and refuted Mr. Jibril's allegations.

The statement reiterated the PFLP's commitment to attend the PNC and the "global Palestinian dialogue" including the Fatah Central Committee and the national alliance.

Meanwhile, the deputy military commander of the PLO, Khalil Al Wazir, arrived in Amman Wednesday but was not available for comment. Palestinian sources here said that Mr. Saleh Ra'afat, a member of the political bureau of the PFLP, is expected to arrive here from Damascus Thursday to attend a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to support the steadfastness of people in the occupied territories (Story on page 3).

Egyptians tighten security in Suez

(Continued from page 1)

surface with cables. Three Italian minesweepers left Wednesday to join the group of French, British and U.S. vessels searching the seabed with sonar equipment.

Suez Canal authority sources said Reuters that a total of 24 ships of different nationalities, including some Iranian and Libyan vessels, had been searched on both sides of the canal in the past two weeks.

They also said there was no evidence to prove that the Libyan oil-on-roll-off cargo ship Ghat, impounded in Marseille, France (See page 7), had planted the mines in the Red Sea.

Weizman committed to Labour

(Continued from page 1)

common ground to rule together a joint cabinet, and both sides said they were progressing toward agreement.

Mr. Weizman's move, puts pressure on Likud to back down from one of its positions. Mr. Weizman's accord with Shimon Peres, a long process of discussion from the Likud. He was a campaign manager who masqueraded Likud's 1977 victory, being Labour after 29 years of continuous power.

Mr. Weizman, 50, became defence minister in the government headed by Menachem Begin, and as one of the architects of the 1978 Camp David agreements with Egypt. But he resigned in May 1980, arguing that Mr. Begin was being faithful to the accords. He left

politics to become an importer of Japanese cars. He competed in the last election on a new centrist ticket uncommitted to either of the two large parties, but was sharply critical of the Likud government's economic performance and the war in Lebanon.

After the Weizman-Peres agreement was announced, party officials indicated Labour would soon put together a government with or without Likud.

Labour could first form a narrow government and later attempt to form a "national unity" government, under discussion with Likud since elections a month ago, they said.

"Our goal remains to establish as broad a government as possible," he added.

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THE LITERARY CORNER

Bseiso's vertigo of death and travel

The bard heralds perpetuation of the Odyssey

"TELL ME, Muse, of that man, so ready at need, who wandered far and wide, after he had sacked the sacred Citadel of Troy, and many were the man whose towns he saw, and whose mind he learnt, yea, and many of the woes he suffered in his heart upon the deep, striving to win his own life and the return of his company."

The Odyssey of Homer

I have always longed for the day when I'll be able to write about Mu'een Bseiso, the great Palestinian poet. I have always had a particular liking for his poetry since the days of adolescence. However, I am not trying to glorify the dead, as is always the case, but, unfortunately, the draft article did not have the chance to see the light until after he passed away.

Mu'een Bseiso was born in Gaza in 1930. In 1952, he graduated from the American University of Cairo with a B.A. degree in English. He worked as a teacher in the Gaza Strip and Iraq. He experienced long-term imprisonment in Egyptian jails and prisons in the early years of the Egyptian July Revolution. He served as a member of the Palestinian National Council; he also worked as the editor-in-chief of "Lotus", the magazine issued by the Afro-Asian Writers' Federation. Many of his works — two volumes including poetry, drama, prose, novels and studies were translated into Russian, German, French, English and Italian. In January of this year, the poet died in London as a stranger, a matter which he predicted in one of his poems.

In the late 1960's, Raja' Al Naqash, the well-read Egyptian critic who proved that criticism can be an art (for he was an artist himself) rather than a profession, wrote a book entitled "Poets of the Occupied Land," in which he critically introduced the early attempts at writing poetry by poets such as Mahmoud Darwish, Samih Al Qasbi, Tawfiq Zayyad, Rashid Hussein and others.

Al Naqash, a highly-respected critic, stated explicitly that poets such as Adonis of Lebanon and Mu'een Bseiso of Palestine possessed more maturity, talent and stylistic capabilities than the then young poets of the occupied Arab territories. The last mentioned gained more reputation simply because they reflected the spirit of resistance against the severe and inhuman measures imposed by the occupiers.

Such was the case with Mu'een Bseiso, who possessed poetic talent widely recognised by the toughest of critics. He was one of the pioneering poets who condemned lamenting the usurped land; instead, he glorified popular resistance, prophesyingly emb-

odying his people's dream:

Here they come! No compromise!
Glory to resistance!
Glory to the banner of perseverance!
Oh partisan! Take my place if I fall,
Take my weapon without fearing my blood staining it;
I have not died! I'm still calling
You from behind the wounds.

Despite this unsubmitive and untamed spirit that the daring poet manifested in his personal life and in many of his works, death and travel — like Badr Shaker Al Sayab's rain, function as the common denominators of his poetry:

To my successor, I leave Palestine — the woman
And I shall have the martyrs.
I am cured by blood if infected by fever
Blood is the incurable disease!
He talks about the eternity of words, and yet this is related to the absence of the poet:

What would the world do
If the bard is away?
Birds fly from one branch to another
Leaving a straw of hay, and the words endure.
As a fortune teller, Bseiso predicts his own end:
How miserable is the death of strangers
'Tis like a poem on a black list.

Death has a great dominion (Contrary to that of Dylan Thomas) on the poet:
Silence is death
Say what you please and die
If you say it, you'll die
If you're silent, you'll die
Say it and die.

Even when he dreams of realising a miracle for his people, he still reflects that pessimistic inhibition:
A nail on my cross
I'll carve from my bones
Drops of my blood
I'll plant in the ground.

Bseiso finds that travel is the other fateful spell cast on the

twentieth century Odysseus — The Palestinian. He sees his Odyssey as absurd, pointless and endless:

You should continue to walk and not to walk.
You should continue to fly and not to fly.
You should continue to lean and not to lean.
You should continue to say and not to say.
You should continue to be and not to be.
This is actually a sad reminder of T.S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men."

(This is the way the world ends;
This is the way the world ends.)
At one time the sail becomes his mask:
The sail has become my mask — who am I?
At another he sees the mask falling and in a Christ-like address he says:

This is the last supper at your tables
And this double-faced wounded does avouch
I am the adulterer
I am the criminal
And you are angels and poems

This is the last supper at your tables.
Does this mean that the Odyssey is coming to an end? Does it mean that the falling of the sail marks the end of the endless voyage? Perhaps, but where is Odysseus? He is still there listening to the waves:

Many a time, the waves said: Do not sail away.
Many a time, the waves said: Do anchor for a while.
Stay for a while in our harbours
So we can see you and not see you.

Is Bseiso's Odysseus still sailing in this gray zone of "see you and not see you"? If so, where is Penelope? Is she still waiting for the destined Odysseus? In all probability she is still there, where he first left her, besieged by some venomous wooers, peerless and unmatched in the world of evil.
And for Odysseus, every day is the first day of travelling on his voyage to the unknown:

This is the first day of travel
Travel... travel
Travel is perpetual
Long live travel
Travel... travel.

— Ahmad Jaber

Randa Habib's Corner

Sweifieh needs services

MY READERS from Sweifieh enlisted my help to solve problems for them. They are forgotten and not cared for by the municipality, they say. Since they are not included in the city of Amman (Sweifieh being part of Wadi Seer) the inhabitants of Sweifieh think that the development of their roads is primitive, almost non-existent. It is quite simple: it is impossible for any of them to give his address to a friend. What could he say? There are no distinctive landmarks, no road names, strictly nothing. In fact, some of them said it was almost an ordeal for us to find our own house the first days we moved in.

As a result they have always to drive in front of their guests in order to show them the way to their house, and often they have to bring them back because for many people the exit from Sweifieh looks like a confusing maze.

But the problem is not only the lack of landmarks, it is also the state of the roads. One should be equipped for a safari or else sacrifice his car to venture in those roads. The mountains of stone and gravel are everywhere and most of the streets are not paved. Last, but not least one should see the soul of Sweifieh to see the lack of planning. Streets that zig zag, walls facing you, dead ends etc... And yet, this area has turned to become a residential district during the past years. It is high time that the municipality of Wadi Seer cast an eye on it. Better still work on it.

American tribute to Arab Bank services

THE Shomans are the Palestinian family that run Arab Bank Ltd. and own the largest single share of it, about 20 per cent. With a network of offices from New York to Singapore and assets of more than \$10 billion, it has a client list that embraces many of the most famous names in the Arab World, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Their bank has just received the tribute of being the first and only Arab bank to have devoted to it a front page news report on its progress and background in the "Wall Street Journal".

The chairman defends his conservatism by referring to the region's many political uncertainties. And the bank can boast that it has always paid deposits on demand through an awesome string of crises: The 1935 Italo-Ethiopian war, which created panic withdrawals of funds from the banks and moneychangers in the Middle East; the 1936 Arab general strike in Palestine; World War II, the war and exodus of Arab refugees in 1948; the Israeli-Arab wars of 1967 and 1973; the Lebanese civil war; and the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The bank has also diversified into other parts of the world in the past few years, under Abdul Majed. It has fewer assets in the Middle East than ever before, a senior staff member says. Perhaps as much as a third of assets now are in Europe, he says, with about a quarter in Jordan, 30 per cent in Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf and the rest mainly in Lebanon, Egypt and the U.S.

Yet the founder's influence still is strong. Abdul Majed, while he isn't the ascetic his father was, lives moderately. He owns only one house, in Amman. "Our object isn't money," he says. "Had we wanted we could have been 20 times richer."

His father returned from New York to Jerusalem in 1929 expressly to found a bank. He had originally gone to the U.S. as an immigrant, but his feeling that the Arab World needed proper banking institutions took him back.

In 1948 the bank lost three branch offices, in Haifa, Jerusalem and Jaffa. "They (the Israelis) took the premises, the records, everything," the chairman says. In 1967 it lost seven more: six in the West Bank and one in Gaza. The West Bank premises still lie idle and the Shomans continue to pay staff who chose to remain in the West Bank. — The Voice of the Arab World.

Doctors fight heart disease with high-tech medicine

WASHINGTON — Doctors in the United States fighting heart disease are part of a medical revolution in treating one of the world's most deadly diseases.

Sophisticated surgery from coronary bypass to heart transplants, new drugs and new uses of old drugs, space-age devices, and preventive therapies are all enabling more patients with heart disease to live longer and feel better.

In just 10 years, the age-adjusted death rate has declined 25 per cent for heart disease and 45 per cent for stroke," says Dr. Peter Frommer of the U.S. National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

In the field of surgery, the major advance is the coronary bypass, now the most frequently performed heart operation in the United States — some 165,000 times a year. In this operation, surgeons take veins, usually from the leg, and create detours around blocked arteries to the heart.

Says Dr. Gerald Austen of Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital: "This operation ... prolongs life in patients whose disease is located in the left main coronary artery or who have significant disease in three vessels."

A simpler substitute for bypass surgery involves a balloon catheter. In some patients with less severe disease, surgeons can snake into the coronary artery a tiny balloon-tipped tube and inflate the balloon to reopen the artery.

The most far-reaching change in recent years is the use of a cold, potassium-salt solution during an operation to make the heart so very cold that it literally stops for two hours while it is being repaired.

"This technique has made the biggest difference in surgery in the last five years," says University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre's Dr. Grant Van S. Parr.

On the frontier of surgery, so much progress has been made in heart transplants that about 100 Americans receive new hearts every year with 70 per cent surviving more than one year.

Key to the current transplant success is the new drug cyclosporin, which helps prevent the body's immune system from rejecting the transplant without impairing the patient's ability to fight off infectious diseases.

Parallel to surgery's success in heart disease has been the development of powerful new drugs for treating a range of problems from angina chest pain and heart spasms to hypertension and clogged arteries.

Chief among these drugs are the beta blockers, introduced a decade or so ago to treat abnormal heart rhythm and now used for angina and hypertension. These medications likewise have proven very effective in preventing second heart attacks.

Also, a whole new class of drugs to treat angina — calcium blockers — has become available over the past year. As chemical messengers, calcium ions make blood vessels contract and cause chest pain. Calcium blockers alleviate the pain by intercepting the chemical message to the vessels.

The explosion in drugs has been spurred by the public-health movement in the United States to control hypertension, a condition that affects millions of people worldwide — Abridged from U.S. News and World Report.



University of Utah Medical Centre Dr. William DeVries compares new artificial heart with instructional model of a natural heart. Doctors at medical centres across the United States are using the latest high technology — from heart transplants to powerful new drugs — to help patients with heart disease live longer and feel better (Press and Publications Service photo)

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Concern remains over big U.S. savings institution

LOS ANGELES (R) — A huge sale of American Express shares on Wall Street has given a much-needed cash boost to the troubled financial Corporation of America (FCA), parent of the largest U.S. savings and loan association, but uncertainty still hangs over the institution's future.

Analysts said the \$222 million sale of seven-million American Express shares Monday and of as much as \$1.5 billion of mortgage-backed securities by FCA in the past few days would not be sufficient to meet the requirements of federal regulators who say FCA must increase its available capital.

Worries about FCA's future have shaken the U.S. financial community for the past week and speculation persists that the company will have to raise more money by a debt issue or that the

federal government will have to step in with another huge rescue, as it did with the Continental Illinois Bank of Chicago.

FCA, the creation of Honolulu-born entrepreneur Charles Knapp, has followed an aggressive marketing and acquisition policy in the traditionally staid savings and loan industry, the U.S. home-loan equivalent of Britain's building societies.

It had held a 10 million share stake in American Express, the diversified financial services group, or 4.9 per cent. Its sale of seven million shares Monday was the second biggest transaction in the history of the New York stock exchange.

Trouble for FCA came when the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which regulates companies with publicly traded securities, challenged the

reliability of its stated earnings.

The company resolved this by restating its earnings for the second quarter of the fiscal year to show a \$107.5 million loss rather than the \$31.1 million profit it had originally reported for the three-month period.

The SEC had taken issue with an earlier report by the company because of FCA's method of accounting for some \$1.8 billion of government National Mortgage Association certificate investments.

The nature of the disagreements between the company and federal regulators was revealed in June when FCA withdrew an unusual debt issue after Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) board officials said they would approve the transaction only if the company accepted a number of conditions.

These called for the thrift institution to increase its capital and to limit future growth and fixed rate mortgage lending activities.

Rather than accept, FCA withdrew the offer.

FCA has grown rapidly from a company with about \$3.7 billion in assets in June 1981 to nearly \$31 billion in June 1984. Deposit total about \$25 billion.

Company officials have denied the firm is experiencing significant difficulties and contend that the revisions made in the second-quarter earnings statement were only accounting changes.

Mr. Knapp told reporters that the organization "is sound and is economically viable."

The possibility of a further large outflow from institutional accounts, similar to a run earlier this year on deposits at Continental Illinois, has raised the level of concern over FCA.

Continued high rates of fixed-rate lending by FCA in the face of rising interest rates are another worry.

One analyst, who asked not to be named, told Reuters that the company will need "massive funding from federal regulators" to meet the government's liquidity requirements.

The company has already said it will not have the required cash on hand to cover five per cent of all deposits in August.

FCA's share price plunged last Friday to a low of \$4-3/4, after trading as high as 31-1/2 in the past year.

Impounding of Libyan ship is commercial affair, Paris says

PARIS (R) — A French court order impounding a Libyan freighter suspected of involvement in the mining of the Red Sea and Gulf of Suez was issued strictly under commercial law, French external relations ministry officials said Wednesday.

The vessel, the 2,412-ton container ship Ghat, had been seized on Saturday by French customs agents looking for military material.

It was ordered impounded Tuesday by the Commercial Court of Marseilles under an emergency procedure that bars it from leaving the Mediterranean port.

The ship was being held at the request of a Marseilles shipping company, Marseilles-Fret, which is seeking the return of one of its ships, the Rove, which has been

The impounding of the Ghat, he said, was "a purely commercial, private law affair. It is in the hands of justice."

The Ghat, a roll-on, roll-off container ship owned by the General National Maritime Transport Company of Tripoli, is suspected of laying mines that have damaged at least 17 ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez during the past six weeks.

Shipping sources in Cairo have said Egyptian suspicions were apparently aroused because the Ghat made no stops at any port in the Gulf or the Red Sea during a two-week voyage that began on July 6, three days before the first mine explosion.

The freighter docked back at Tripoli on July 22, then sailed to France, where it loaded 418 tonnes of unassembled Peugeot cars before the customs search on Saturday.

French officials said nothing abnormal was found during the search.

Riyadh may cut oil output to defend prices

CARACAS (R) — Saudi Arabia would consider reducing its oil production to a little below four million barrels per day (b/d) over the next few weeks to defend the current price structure, Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said Tuesday.

He was reporting on a recent mission to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Libya by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ministers to ensure oil producers support present price levels.

"Saudi Arabia has said it would reduce production to a little less than four million barrels per day if necessary," Mr. Hernandez Grisanti said on his talks in Riyadh with King Fahd.

Saudi output is nominally five million b/d, but King Fahd said it had dropped to about 4.1 million b/d because of pressure by industrialised countries to cut production.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti denied press reports that OPEC will reduce quotas, and said instead member countries in relatively strong economic shape have started to cut production voluntarily to help other producers.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti said the market was improving and OPEC will hold an extraordinary ministerial conference at the end of October to decide whether to raise production quotas.

He said the decision to hold a conference was taken during the mission by the oil ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Algeria and Venezuela last week.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti said any decision on raising quotas will depend on demand increasing in August and September.

He estimated demand could sustain OPEC production of 18.5

million barrels per day in the fourth quarter, as against the present 17.5 million ceiling, but warned that any rise in quotas should be temporary.

"Demand should pick up, particularly in November, but any increases in production should only be for the period between November and January or February," he said.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti said OPEC production in August is estimated at 16.5 million barrels per day, which means that it has dropped 1.5 million on July levels of more than 18 million.

He said OPEC passed through a critical phase at the end of last month, when excess production threatened prices and the Soviet Union cut its Urals price by \$1.50 per barrel.

However, he said spot prices for North Sea Brent have risen \$1.70 from below \$27 at the end of July, and as against its official price of \$30, while Saudi light has gone up 70 cents from around the same

level. He noted that oil product prices have also risen, with gasoline up 40 cents per barrel last week in Europe and 80 cents in the United States, while gasoil rose 55 cents and 65 cents respectively.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti said a major stabilising factor in the market has been Britain's decision to act to prevent a drop in North Sea prices.

"The British government two weeks ago sent an official communication to North Sea operators telling them not to pressure the state oil company into lowering prices," he said.

He said Britain has also reduced production by more than 300,000 b/d so far this month, adding: "This leads us to believe that for the first time Britain has decided on action to defend prices."

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti also paid tribute to Iran, which he said has held firm "despite tremendous pressure from buyers to lower prices."

Iran imports total \$16b in a year

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian imports totalled \$16 billion in the year ended last March, Commerce Minister Hassan Abedi Jafari was quoted Tuesday as saying.

Tehran radio said he told reporters the total included \$11 billion of raw materials for industry and \$5 billion of other goods, of which consumer goods accounted for \$2.5 billion.

Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said last week that oil shipments, which account for almost all Iran's exports, were worth \$21.5 billion in the same period.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed on opening higher levels after a quiet session. At 1500 the F.T. 30 index was up 4.9 to 844.8 and the F.T.-S.E. 100 index was up 7.3 to 1089.7.

Opening gains reflected the sharp gain on Wall Street Tuesday but failure of the U.K. dock dispute talks caused prices to close below best levels.

Government bonds lost gains ranging to 3/4 point with the rise in U.S. July durable goods orders having an additional adverse impact. Golds and North American stocks ended mixed.

ICI ended 10p up at 602. Glaxo was 23p higher at 923 but Imperial group lost 3p at 398 and Grand Met shed 2p to 302. Blue Circle was 3p up at 398 and Grand Met shed 2p to 302. Blue Circle was 3p up at 398 and Grand Met shed 2p to 302.

Wall Street influences pushed up oils with B.P. closing 17p higher at 490 while Shell finished 12p dearer at 638.

Banks closed slightly easier, and insurances declined as recent speculative positions were unwound. Legal and General fell 12p to 536 while Pearl Assurance was 16p down at 859 despite interim results in line with expectations.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.3115/22	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3009/12	Canadian dollars
	2.8870/80	West German marks
	3.2560/70	Dutch guilders
	2.4085/95	Swiss francs
	58.25/28	Belgian francs
	8.8625/75	French francs
	1785.25/1786.25	Italian lire
	241.88/98	Japanese yen
	8.3525/75	Swedish crowns
	8.3000/50	Norwegian crowns
	10.5200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	345.50/346.00	U.S. dollars

Britain-Norway gas talks fail

STAVANGER, Norway (R) — Disagreement over tax benefits from a \$30 billion gas deal between Britain and Norway remained unresolved after meetings Wednesday between British and Norwegian oil ministers, both ministers said.

Norwegian Oil and Energy Minister Kaare Kristiansen and British Oil Minister Alick Buchanan-Smith failed to solve a dispute over who should gain the tax benefits from pipelining the gas from the North Sea to Britain.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith told a press conference after the meeting that negotiations would continue.

"Further work needs to be done and we hope progress can be made as rapidly as possible," he said.

supply Britain with gas until the end of the century from the yet to be developed Sleipner gas field in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea, have been going on for over two years.

The two state-owned energy companies, Norway's Statoil and the British Gas Corporation, reached an agreement earlier this year but the British government vetoed the deal, demanding better terms.

Sources close to the British minister told Reuters that arguments between government departments, the treasury, the foreign office and the energy ministry had made negotiations more difficult, but they said an agreement was likely soon.

French fear unemployment, hard times

PARIS (R) — One French person in three is afraid of losing his job and one in two believes life is going to become financially tougher, a survey in the wide circulation French daily paper Le Soir said Wednesday.

With July unemployment up 15 per cent from July 1983 at 2.34 million, 34 per cent of the 1,000 people questioned believed they or their families would be made redundant in coming months.

Just a month after new Prime Minister Laurent Fabius took over from Mr. Pierre Mauroy, more than half of those surveyed thought Socialist government policy incoherent and 56 per cent did not believe its policies would work.

One in two people believed life was going to be financially more difficult when they come back from the summer break than in previous years, with only eight per cent saying it would be easier than before.

Turkey allows Gulf nationals to buy land

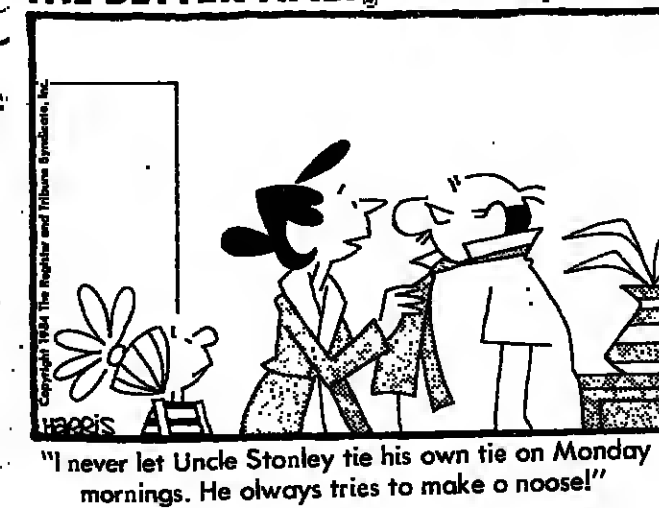
ANKARA (R) — Turkey Tuesday published a law enabling nationals of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar to buy land in urban areas.

It said five per cent of the purchase price and 15 per cent of the resale price must be paid to the national housing fund, but profits could be repatriated.

Turkey already permits sale of land to foreigners under certain conditions, but in practice this has been virtually impossible.

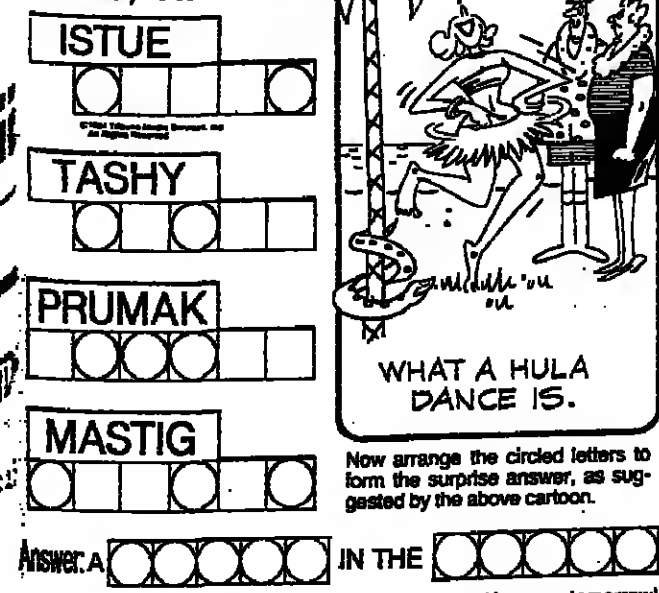
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A O O O O O IN THE (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BOOTY ODIUM TOTTER GYPSUM

Answer: If it's Dracula whom you meet on the street, he'll sure know how to do this—PUT THE BITE ON YOU

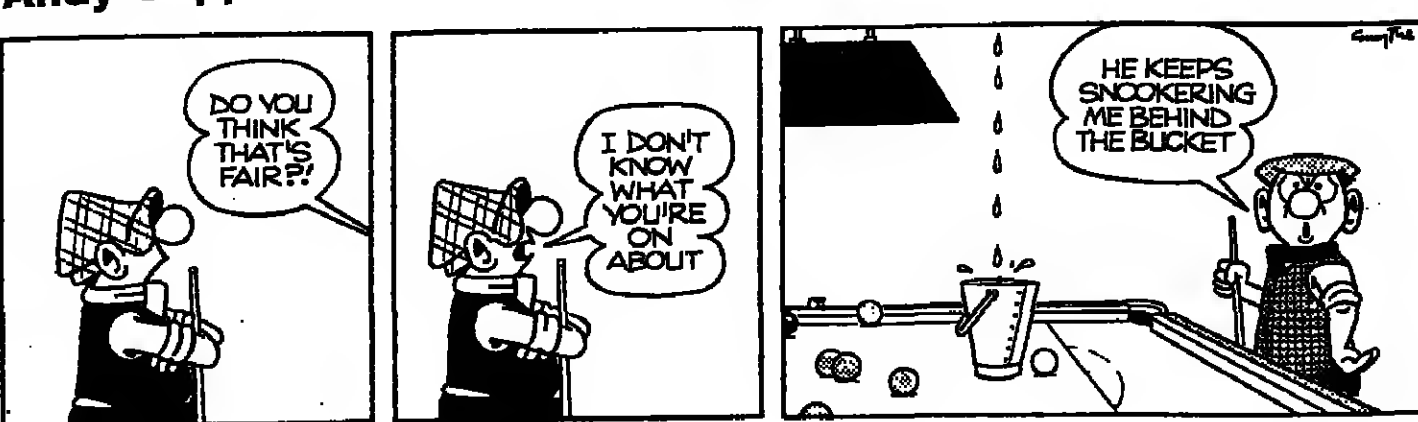
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUG. 23, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day is good for whatever has to do with the social aspects of your life as well as charming business contacts, but there may be afternoon and evening upsets.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Morning is fine at home, but later you need to be cautious since an unhappy situation could arise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Important affairs can be handled early, but after lunch others may be preoccupied with other matters.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Financial affairs can be handled to suit everyone concerned in the morning, but the afternoon is not good for such.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Look into the various ways by which you can gain whatever is vital to your welfare, but don't force any situation.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get advice from an expert how best to get ahead in the morning, but after lunch make no radical changes, though you may want to.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Go after that personal desire in the morning and gain it, but later think out how best to handle a personal affair.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are able to get a higher-up to understand your side of some situation, and handle it wisely since later some adversity could arise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are inspired to greater advancement early but later get back to routine and handle them well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get busy solving business problems in the morning, and then study ways to get ahead faster.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do whatever will please a nervous associate in the morning, but later you can get bored. Enjoy a quiet evening at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Early get your surroundings more charming and then you can have guests in. Make a fine impression on them.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Early plan the amusements you want to enjoy later, then be cheerful despite any delays.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will bring much joy to kin early in life so give as much affection as you can. One who will have many fine ideas in the field of merchandising, so send to the right schools for such talent. Teach to be more objective so that the feelings will not get hurt as easily.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you will have much ability to get basic conditions ironed out as you wish and plan the future. In the evening you are able to rise above mundane interests and see ways to achieve.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can handle home affairs most satisfactorily today and tonight you can enjoy your favorite kind of entertainment.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do some favors for those who have been loyal to you in the past and show gratitude. The evening can then be most enjoyable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The morning is best time to handle all practical matters, but later glad about town and please your friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Do whatever will bring you personal advancement in the morning, and later you can handle property matters very well.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan how to be more successful and gain personal goals early and by evening you will have accomplished a good deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Put your own aims ahead of everything else in the morning. Accept a fine invitation from a good friend. Be romantic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An ally at work will give a fine suggestion for your betterment, so be sure to follow it. A favor for a bigwig helps.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make those changes that are for your betterment and later discuss them with a bigwig who can be of assistance to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Ideal day to handle practical affairs that are important to your welfare. A special thought for your loved one is wise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Come to the right decisions since a partner will be more than willing to go along with our ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can get much done in the morning since everything works beautifully for you at your job. Reconcile with a co-worker.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can put those clever ideas across now so that all can be pleased and later you can add to them as well.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will understand how to please good friends and should have a very fine education since upon reaching adulthood this fine quality will make it possible for your progeny to get into an executive position that can be very valuable to many persons. Teach good manners.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Republicans set stage for Reagan's renomination

DALLAS (R) — Ex-President Gerald Ford and other old adversaries of Ronald Reagan Wednesday set the stage for his renomination by tossing barbs at Walter Mondale and his trouble-plagued running mate, Geraldine Ferraro.

Mr. Ford, who crushed Mr. Reagan's try for the nomination in 1976 and spurned his offer of the vice presidency in 1980, led the cheers for his former rival as the Republican Party convention built up to a rubber-stamp renomination ritual Thursday.

The convention, packed with the right-wingers of Mr. Reagan's era, gave the middle-road former president a hero's welcome that mirrored their confident, festive mood, cheering and applauding him and wife Betty for several minutes.

Speakers also aimed some of their fire for the first time at Ms. Ferraro, who is mired in controversy and whose name had hardly been mentioned in two days of convention speeches.

As the Republicans were talking in Dallas, she was talking in New York and stealing headlines with a defence of the family finances that have come under scrutiny and a signal that she has no intention of quitting the Democratic ticket.

Saying she and her husband had done nothing dishonest in a tangled financial relationship involving his real estate firm, she stated at a news conference:

"I consider myself an asset (to Mondale) and consider us a winning team and we'll invite you to the White House."

The Republicans, trying to whip up excitement at a placid con-

ference and said she had done herself some good.

A litany of savage attacks on Liberal ex-Vice President Mondale also continued, with Mr. Ford leading the way.

"Far from assuring Americans, as (President) Franklin Roosevelt did (during the great depression) that all we have to fear is fear itself, Mr. Mondale has embraced fear," he said. "All he has to offer is fear itself."

Making the standard Republican reference to Mr. Mondale's service under unpopular ex-President Jimmy Carter, Mr. Ford said: "Vice President Mondale leads from weakness and President Reagan leads from strength."

Mr. Reagan was also lauded by Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, who contested Mr. Reagan for the nomination four years ago and is married to the transportation secretary.

Besides the rhetoric, the Republicans Wednesday also approved a hard-line conservative campaign manifesto that:

—Endorses Mr. Reagan's military build-up

—Blames the Soviets for world tensions, and

—Enshrines right-wing views on such social issues as abortion, prayer in public schools and no tax increases.

The 2,235 convention delegates will renominate Mr. Reagan and Vice President George Bush, unopposed, Thursday night.

The meeting concludes Thursday with acceptance speeches by Mr. Bush and Mr. Reagan.

Off the convention floor, many leading Republicans complimented Ms. Ferraro for her performance at Wednesday's news

conference and said she had done herself some good.

Col. Blandon is in charge of the

day-to-day running of the war between the 40,000-strong U.S.-backed Salvadoran army and guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Earlier this month Gen. Paul Gorman, commander of all U.S. military forces in Latin America, recommended an increase in the number of U.S. military advisers here from 55 to 125.

"I have always said the advisers were useful but not indispensable," Col. Blandon said. "We do not need any more."

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the bush, he told the U.N. Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Many wounded probably died in the bush and some 7,000 people were left destitute, Mr. Davies added.

Mr. Davies said the government's explanation for the roundup was that it was trying to persuade the herdsmen to give up guns they were stocking for a feud with another Somali clan.

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S. African coloureds vote amid protests

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's people of mixed race, known as coloureds, began voting Wednesday for members of a controversial new parliament as school boycotts spread across the nation in protest at the political changes.

The new assembly excludes the country's black majority.

Opponents of the white South African government have called for a boycott of the polls, saying the new constitution entrenches its apartheid policy of racial separation.

Police, who were on special alert for violence, said the home of one candidate standing in a constituency near Cape Town was the target of petrol-bombs early Wednesday, but no one was injured.

Only about a fifth of South Africa's 780,000 coloured pupils were attending school and all 11 coloured teacher training colleges were completely boycotted by their students, the Directorate of Coloured Education said.

The anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF), a multi-racial group spearheading the election boycott campaign, said a few people had been arrested for distributing political pamphlets.

The UDF said Tuesday that at least 35 people, including some of its leaders, were seized in a clamp-down by police on opponents of the reforms. Police have confirmed that a number of arrests were made but declined to give details.

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Spain protests over Suarez expulsion

MADRID (R) — Spain has protested to Uruguay's military government over the expulsion of former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez for joining the legal defence of a jailed opposition leader, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

A ministry spokesman said the protest was delivered by the Spanish embassy in Montevideo Tuesday night.

Foreign Minister Fernando Moran said in an interview on Spanish national radio that Spain made the protest after being informed by Uruguay's military rulers that the expulsion would go ahead despite a Spanish request for them to reconsider.

The move was totally unjustified, he added, but would not seriously damage future relations between the two countries.

Mr. Suarez, who headed Spain's first democratic government after the death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco in 1975, flew from

Montevideo to Buenos Aires Tuesday night. He had been given 24 hours to leave after he arrived to join lawyers defending Blanco Party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate.

"He (Suarez) had gone to carry out a duty as a lawyer and a public figure, a defender of democracy," Mr. Moran said.

Mr. Ferreira Aldunate was jailed when he returned to Uruguay from exile in June. Spain appealed for him to be released.

A motorcade of supporters followed Mr. Suarez to the airport at Carrasco, 20 kilometres outside the capital and hundreds of people waving Spanish flags applauded him as he boarded a flight for Buenos Aires, eyewitnesses said.

Mr. Suarez was seen off by Spanish embassy officials and by leaders of the opposition Blanco Party.

Mr. Suarez told a news conference the expulsion was a mistake.

Janes: Soviet missiles to target on NATO land

LONDON (R) — Soviet Nuclear missiles will soon be targeted on the entire land mass of the Atlantic alliance, an authoritative manual reported Thursday.

The 87th edition of Jane's fighting ships, published in London, painted a picture of growing Kremlin naval power under a tightly-knit maritime policy unrivalled by the West.

"Soviet policy at sea continues to advance, irrespective of the requirements of international law," said British Royal Navy Captain John Moore in his foreword as editor.

He said the Soviet Navy would have five different types of submarine-launched ballistic missiles operating next year, some capable of being launched from anywhere in the northern hemisphere.

In addition, two types of long-range cruise missiles designed for shore bombardment were soon to be deployed aboard nuclear submarines.

He added: "This capability, combined with the Soviet deployment of missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, means that the entire NATO land mass

will soon be targeted by both high and low trajectory nuclear-headed missiles of many varied capabilities."

Capt. Moore said the Soviet Union was the only country which could justifiably say it had a maritime policy that meshed the navy, merchant shipping and fishing fleet in an operational whole.

The United States and Britain, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) major maritime powers, had no policy for integrating national requirements and resources, he complained.

Capt. Moore suggested that national maritime committees, as far removed from political manipulation as possible, could be a starting point for the West to gain the maximum flexibility enjoyed by the Kremlin.

The Jane's editor said the U.S. Defence Department was carrying out a sensible naval strategy, but added:

"The requirement that Congress should give its annual blessing to the Pentagon's requests, at the same time arrogating to itself the power to cut or alter previous decisions and to inject new and unwanted additions, is a sure recipe for waste and inefficiency."

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COLUMNS 7&8

Youths get 10 lashes for rash driving

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A number of Saudi Arabian teenagers were recently sentenced to 10 lashes each for rash driving in the eastern province of the kingdom, the Arabic language newspaper Al Yawm reported Monday. The teenagers numbered 25 and the youngest offender was of 13 years age. The report said. The minimum age requirement for Saudi driving licences is 18 years. The traffic departments have increased pat-
rols both on the highways and public squares especially in areas known to be havens for hotrodders, a traffic officer said. The Saudi government recently tightened the traffic code and increased fines and detentions for traffic violations.

Danish birds face hard times

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The stork, whose chimney top nest used to be a Danish national symbol, has fallen on bad times and might be extinct in Denmark by the end of the century, the country's chief stork-watcher said Monday. Tommy Dybbro, head of the Danish Ornithological Association's Stork Group, said only 21 of this year's nestlings reached flying age, or three fewer than in 1983. The chicks came from eight of Denmark's 19 adult pairs, three pairs fewer than last year.

Food poisoning affects 58 people

BELGRADE (R) — Fifty-eight people suffered food poisoning after eating cakes at a local pastry shop in the little town of Obrenovac, near Belgrade, doctors said Tuesday. They included a score of athletes from the United Arab Emirates who are training at Obrenovac and residing at a neighbouring hotel. Seventeen people were admitted to a Belgrade hospital but all were said by the doctors to be out of danger. The pastry shop has been closed by the authorities.

Civil war veteran returns to Spain

MADRID (R) — A 74-year-old Spanish Civil War veteran who had been given up for dead, reunited with his wife and daughter Tuesday after 45 years in exile in Algeria. Jose Navarro, who fought as a captain in the Republican Army defeated in a 1936-39 war, was found in an Algerian psychiatric hospital by a young Spanish doctor who picked him out among the patients because he was wearing a Spanish beret. The old soldier, who suffers from amnesia and believes he is living in 1953, arrived back in Spain last Sunday night.

Liz Taylor fights against addiction

LONDON (AP) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor says she fights a daily battle against drug and alcohol addiction. In an interview published Tuesday by Woman's Own, a British magazine, the 52-year-old actress said she recently sought treatment at the Betty Ford Rehabilitation Centre in California because she was worried about taking drugs. "I would try to say something and the thought from my brain wouldn't reach my tongue," she said. "I was stuttering. I was stumbling and it terrified me. I'd try to speak on the phone to my family, my loved ones, and I was incoherent because of drugs. I was scared to death." She said she fights her addiction "one day at a time." As far as her career is concerned, Miss Taylor said: "I have no immediate plans for work... I don't even know if I want to do a play again."

Salvadoran army chief wants U.S. advisers out

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadoran army Chief of Staff Adolfo Blandon, in sharp public disagreement with a top U.S. military commander, has called for a reduction in the number of U.S. military advisers in El Salvador.

"I do not want an increase of advisers. I want the number diminished," Col. Blandon said in an interview with Reuters. "Do you really think this would be a first? To send advisers away to do the opposite of what was done in Vietnam?"

Col. Blandon is in charge of the

Somali nomads allegedly massacred by Kenyans

GENEVA (R) — The anti-slavery society said Tuesday Kenyan security forces killed an estimated 300 to 1,400 nomadic herdsmen in a massacre on an airstrip in northern Kenya earlier this year.

Peter Davies, director of the London-based society, told a United Nations subcommittee that thousands of ethnic Somali herdsmen of the Degodiya clan were rounded up in February and taken to the airstrip at Wagalla, near the town of Wajir.

They were subjected to three days of beatings and torture, and at night dead and wounded were loaded on lorries and dumped in

the bush, he told the U.N. Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Many wounded probably died in the bush and some 7,000 people were left destitute, Mr. Davies added.

Mr. Davies said the government's explanation for the roundup was that it was trying to persuade the herdsmen to give up guns they were stocking for a feud with another Somali clan.

He said the government acknowledged only that 29 internees died from gunshot wounds or were trapped to death in an escape bid.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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IS GOD ITALIAN?

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

North-South vulnerable. East deals.